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Section D Categorical Exclusion (RFO/CX025-91) Determination

C. M. Borgstrom, Director Office of NEPA Oversight, EH-25, HQ

A copy of RFO/CX025-91, Field Activities for Geological and Ecological Characterization Within Floodplains or Wetlands, is attached for your review. This categorical exclusion (CX) was originally submitted for approval to the Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management in October of 1991. We have been awaiting the approval and publication of the Floodplain/Wetlands Notice of Involvement and Statement of Findings required by regulations at 10 CFR 1022 since that time. Both of those documents have now been published in the Federal Register, and the Wetlands Assessment has been delegated from EM to the field in this interim time, we are now resubmitting the CX which has been approved by the Rocky Flats Office Manager.

Robert M. Nelson, Jr.

Manager

Attachment

cc w/Attachment: R. S. Scott, EM-20 A. Rampertaap, EM-453 S. Nesta, EG&G

W. A. Moore, EG&G

## SECTION D DETERMINATION CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION RFO/CX025-91

Proposed Action:

Field Activities for Geologic and Ecological Characterization Within

Floodplains or Wetlands

Location:

Rocky Flats Plant, Golden, CO

Proposed by:

U.S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Office

## Description of the Proposed Action:

Rocky Flats Plant proposes to carry out field activities to gather data to characterize the geology and ecology of the plant site within wetlands and floodplains in support of the remediation of RCRA and CERCLA sites. This work may be performed both within and outside the boundaries of operable units 1, 2, 5 and 6. The characterization work would include 1) establishing new surface water and sediment sampling stations and collecting samples, 2) collecting soil and soil gas samples, and 3) drilling new water wells and collecting groundwater samples, and 4) drilling to obtain geologic cores.

To establish new surface water and sediment sampling stations, stakes would be driven into the ground at the edge of a stream or water body. The stakes would be used as reference points so that samples can be taken from the same locations periodically. Water and sediment samples would be taken by driving or walking to the sample site and collecting up to a few pounds of sediment or a few quarts of water.

Soil and soil gas samples may be collected within floodplains from grids 38, 51, 52, 57, 81, 96, 109 and 115 shown on Figure 2 using three different methods. The first soil sampling method uses a Colorado Department of Health sampler to remove two to three tablespoons of soil from the ground surface anywhere within the grid. The second soil sampling method that would be used is backhoe excavation of soil pits nine feet long, five feet wide and four feet deep to gather samples from the soil profile within each grid. The sample pits will be refilled with the excavated earth after sampling. Sampling soil gas (Figures 3 and 8) is to be accomplished by using a hand auger to drill a one inch diameter hole 18 to 24 inches deep. A probe is inserted into the hole to sample any gases that escape from the soil.

Drilling new water wells and core holes would involve driving a truck mounted drilling rig to the locations shown on Figures 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 to drill holes four to six inches in diameter. Drilling activities that may be within the 100 year floodplain or wetlands are highlighted by heavy arrows on the figures. As a general principle, drilling in wetlands would be avoided because of the added difficulties of setting up a drill rig and drilling in saturated soils, but it may be necessary to locate one or more holes within a wetland. As holes are drilled, drill cuttings would be brought to the surface and shoveled into drums for analysis of contaminants and appropriate disposal. Drilling activity will result in the trampling of vegetation for up to 200 square feet around the drill hole.

These activities would not introduce or cause the inadvertent or uncontrolled movement of hazardous substances or non-native organisms, or adversely affect environmentally sensitive are listed in the guidelines. Because of the nature of the proposed activities, no adverse impacts are expected to wetlands or floodplains.

## Categorical Exclusion to be applied:

B3.1 Site characterization and environmental monitoring, including siting, construction, operation, dismantlement or closing (abandonment) of characterization and monitoring devices and siting,

construction, and operation of a small-scale laboratory building or renovation of a room in an existing building for sample analysis. Activities covered include, but are not limited to, site characterization and environmental monitoring under CERCLA and RCRA. Specific activities include, but are not limited to: (a) Geological, geophysical (such as gravity, magnetic, electrical, seismic, and radar), geochemical, and engineering surveys and mapping, including the establishment of survey marks; (b) Installation and operation of field instruments, such as streamgauging stations or flow-measuring devices, telemetry systems, geochemical monitoring tools, and geophysical exploration tools; (c) Drilling of wells for sampling or monitoring of groundwater or the vadose (unsaturated) zone, well logging, and installation of water-level recording devices in wells; (d) Aquifer response testing; (e) Installation and operation of ambient air monitoring equipment; (f) Sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants; (g) Sampling and characterization of water effluents, air emissions, or solid waste streams; (h) Installation and operation of meteorological towers and associated activities, including assessment of potential wind energy resources; (i) Sampling of flora or fauna; and (j) Archeological, historic, and cultural resource identification in compliance with 36 CFR part 800 and 43 CFR part 7. (10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D)

DOE NEPA REGULATIONS SECTION D

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION - RFO/CX025-91

Field Activities for Geologic and Ecological Characterization Within Floodplains or Wetlands

I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion as defined in the Section D of 10 CFR 1021. Therefore, I approve the categorical exclusion of the proposed action from further NEPA review and documentation.

Date: 10/20/92

Signature:

Robert M. Nelson, Jr.

Title:

Manager, Rocky Flats Office

Project Sponsor:

Date:

Signature:

Title:

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Director, Environmental Restoration

Division

I have reviewed this determination and find that a categorical exclusion is the appropriate level of NEPA documentation.

Date: October 6, 1992

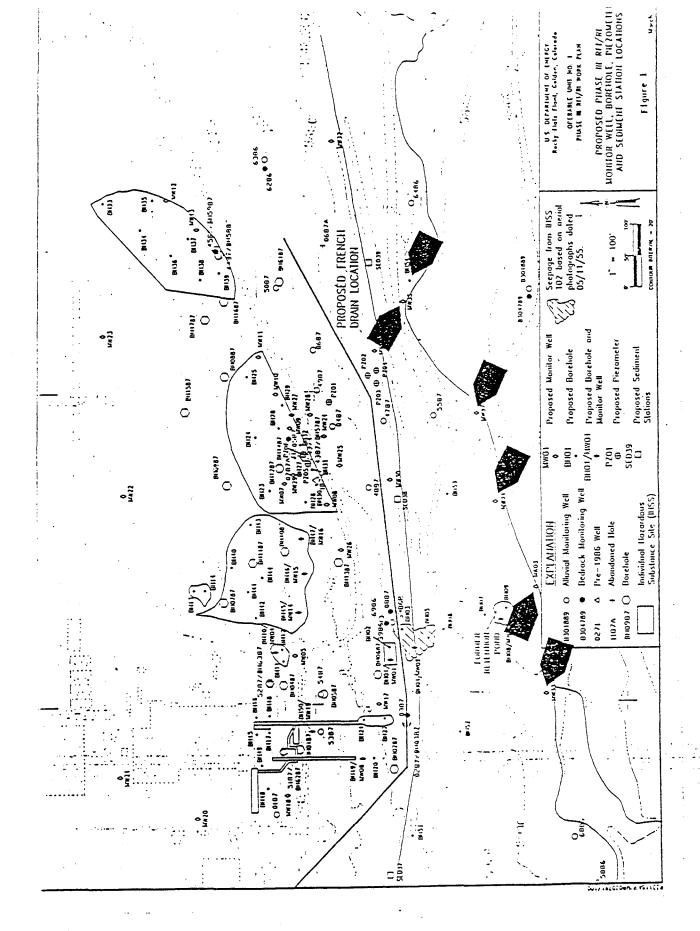
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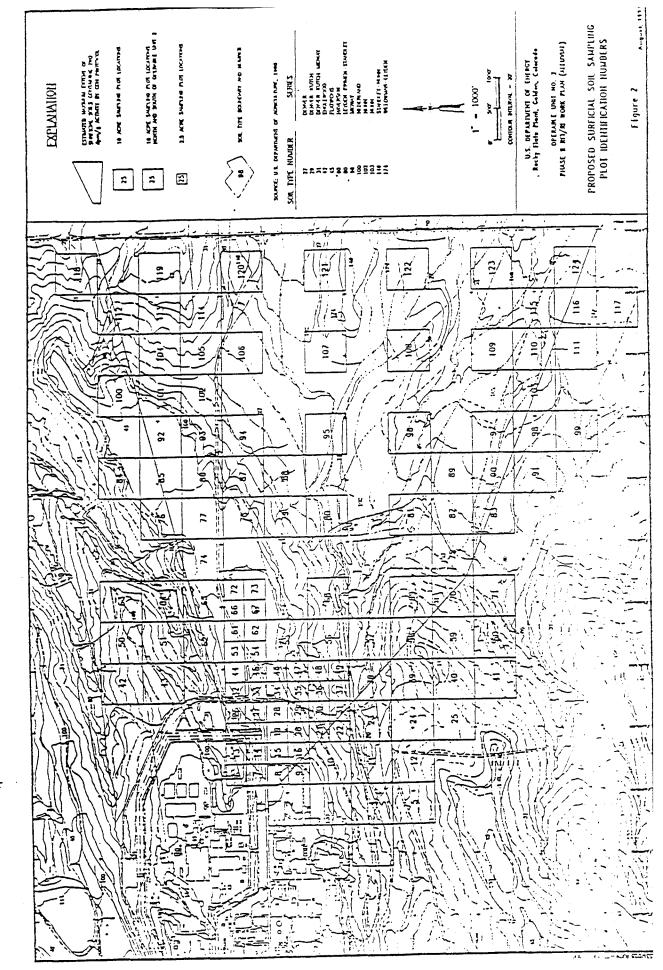
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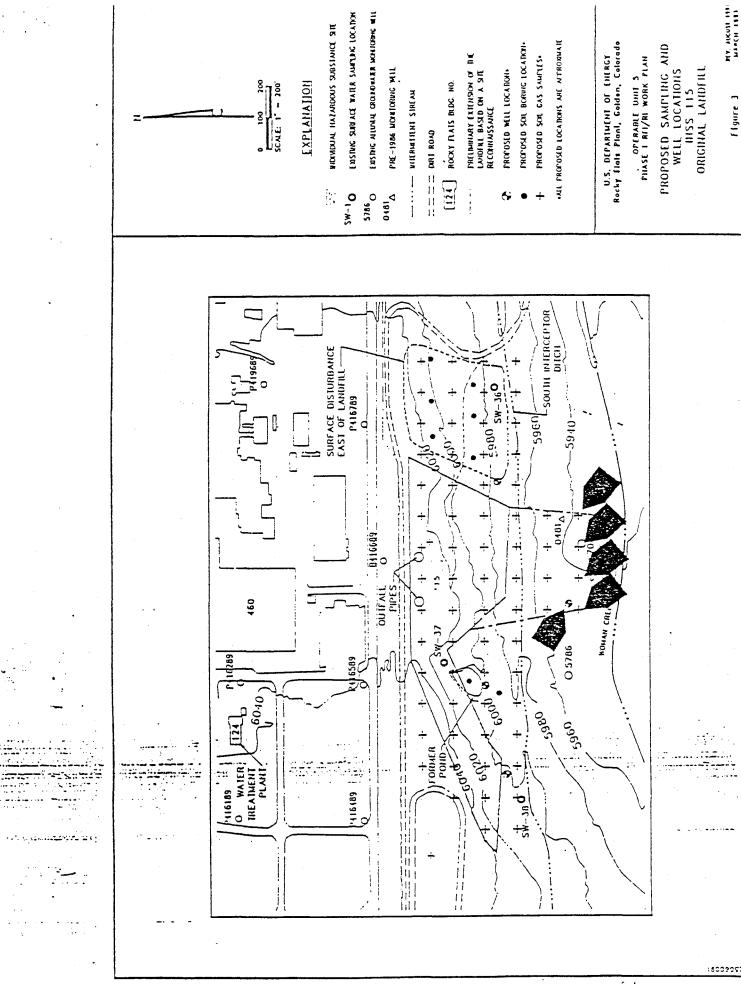
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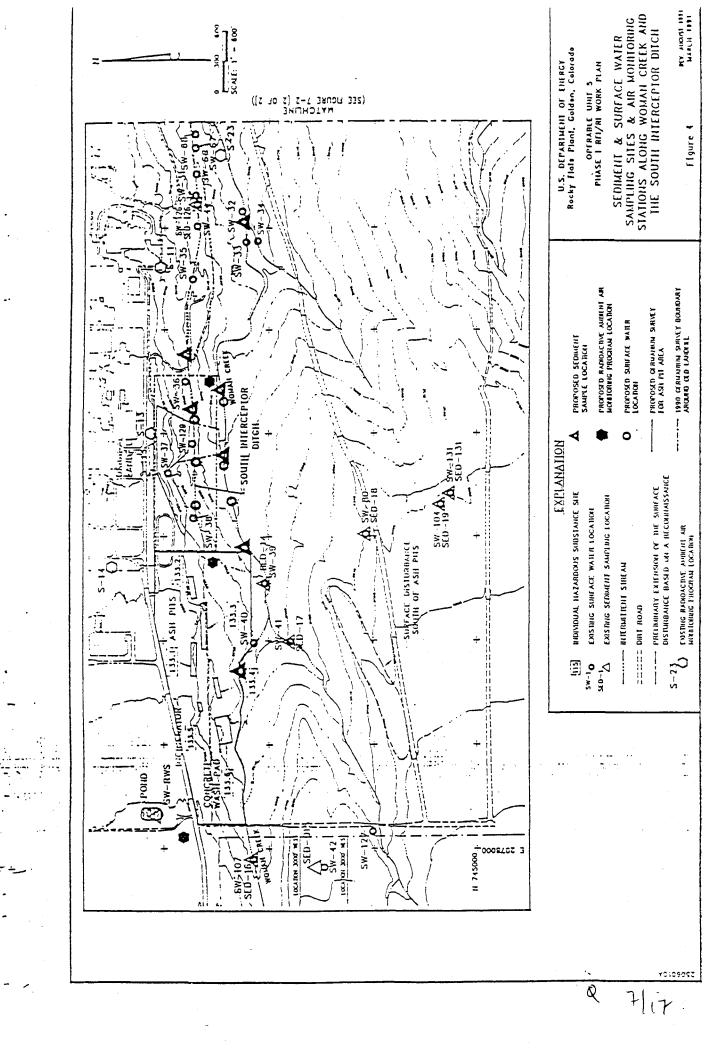
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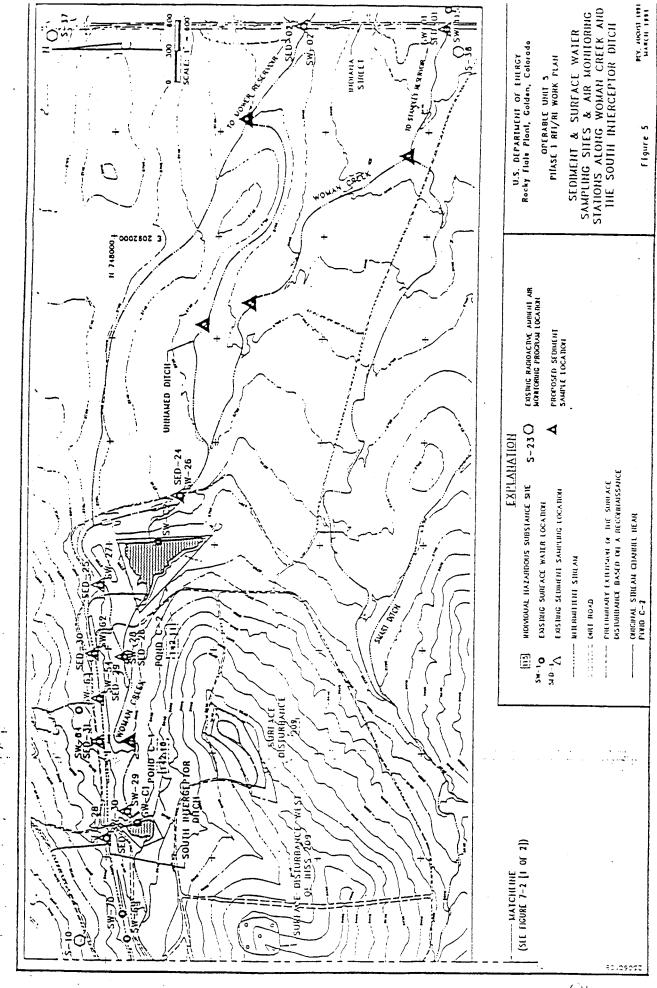


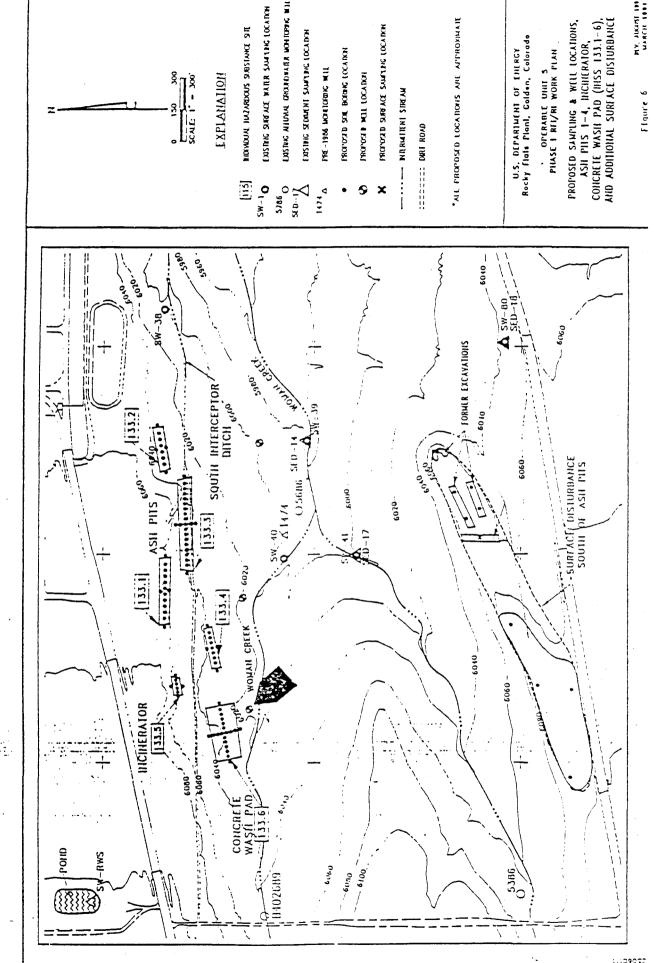


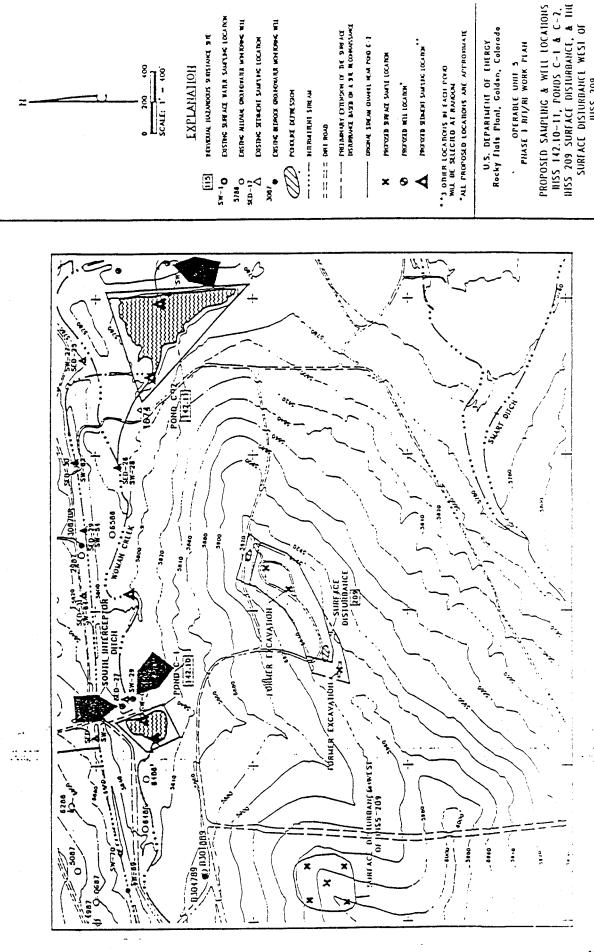
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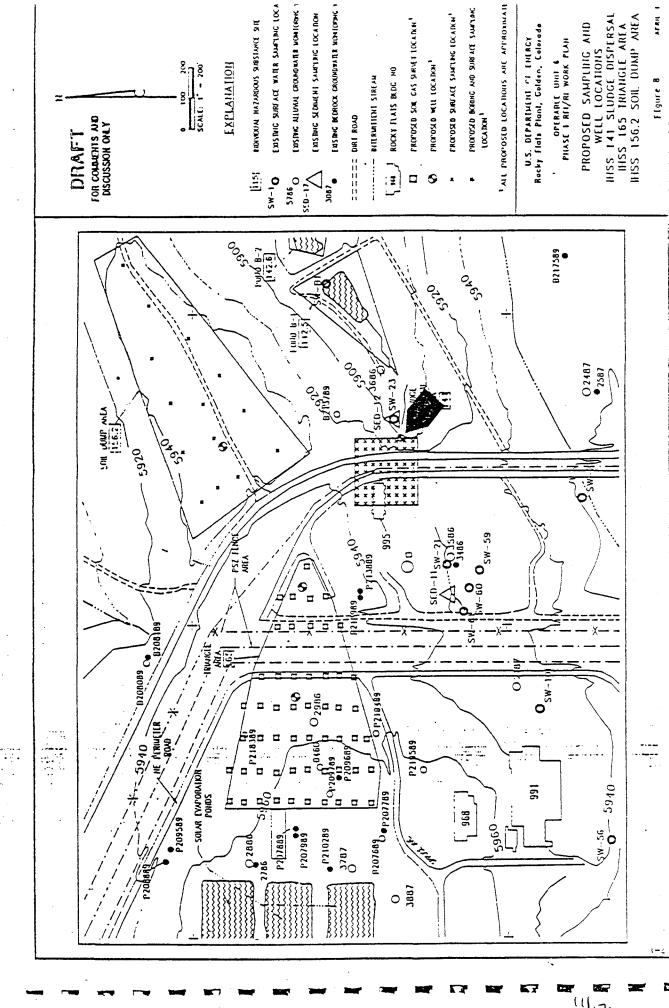




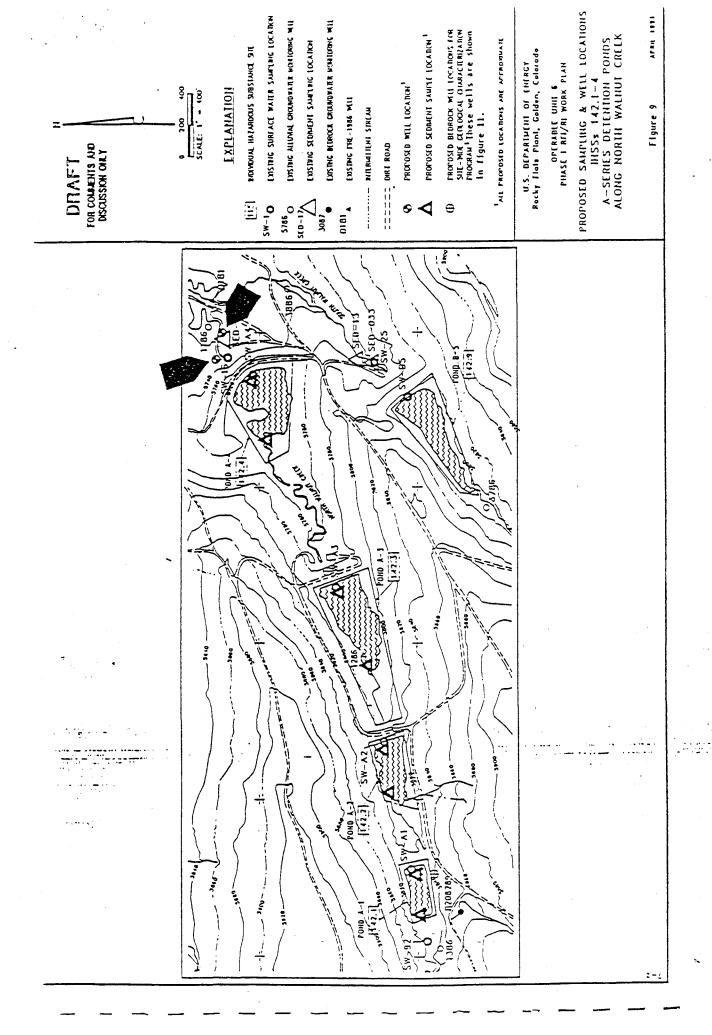
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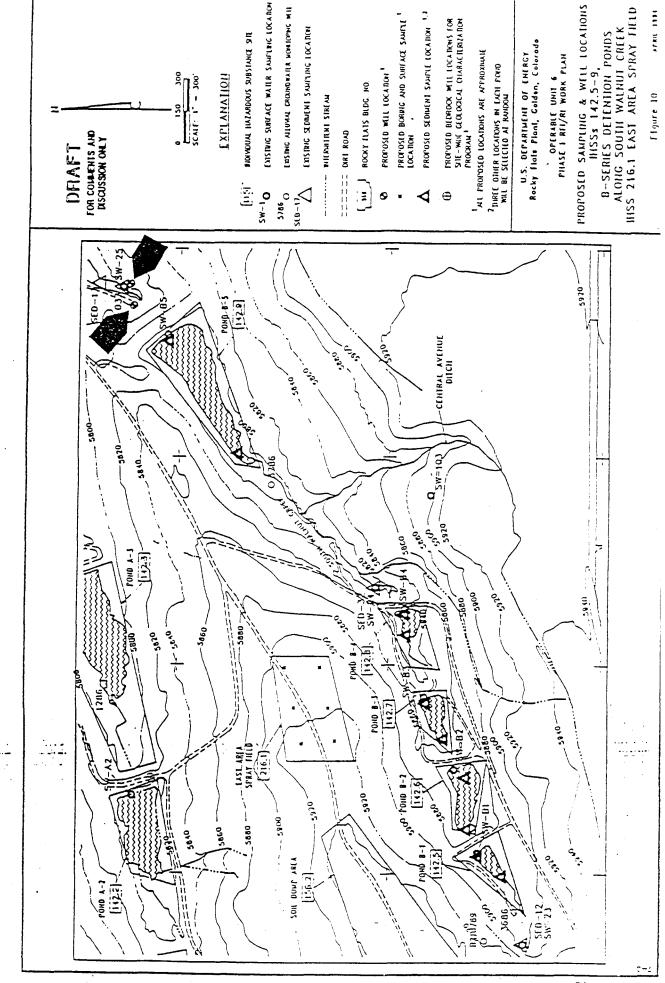
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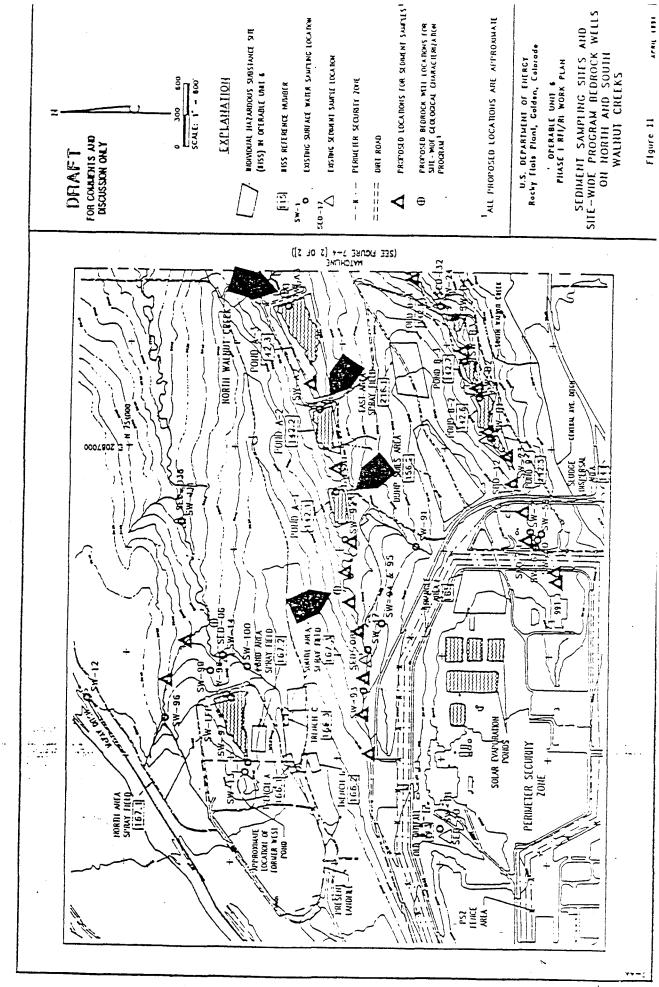
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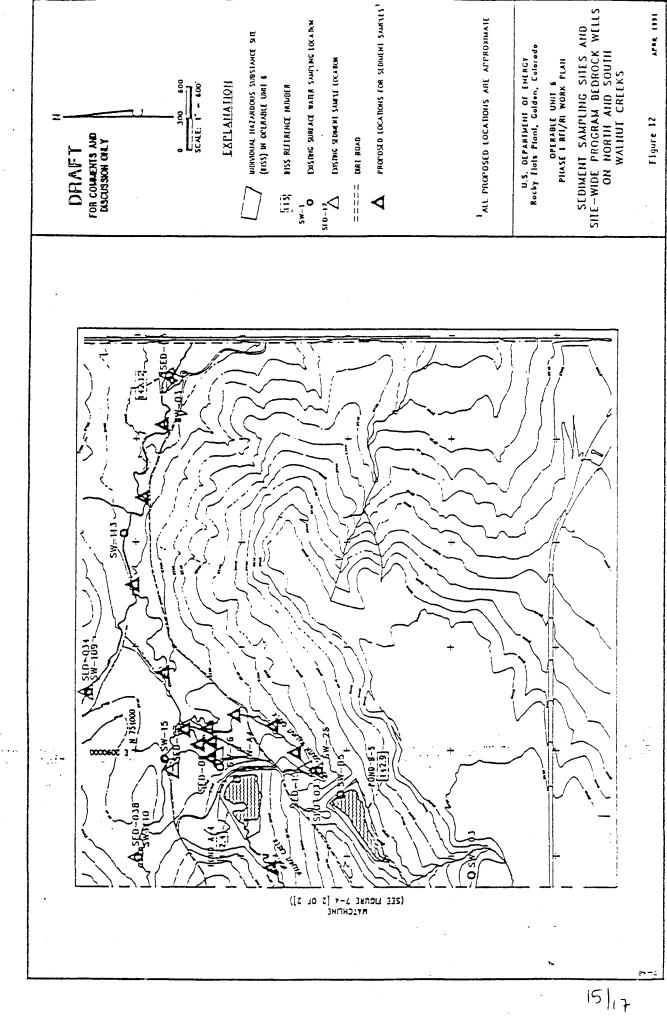


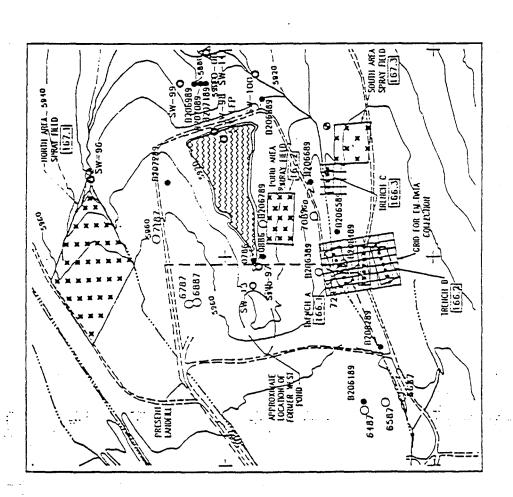
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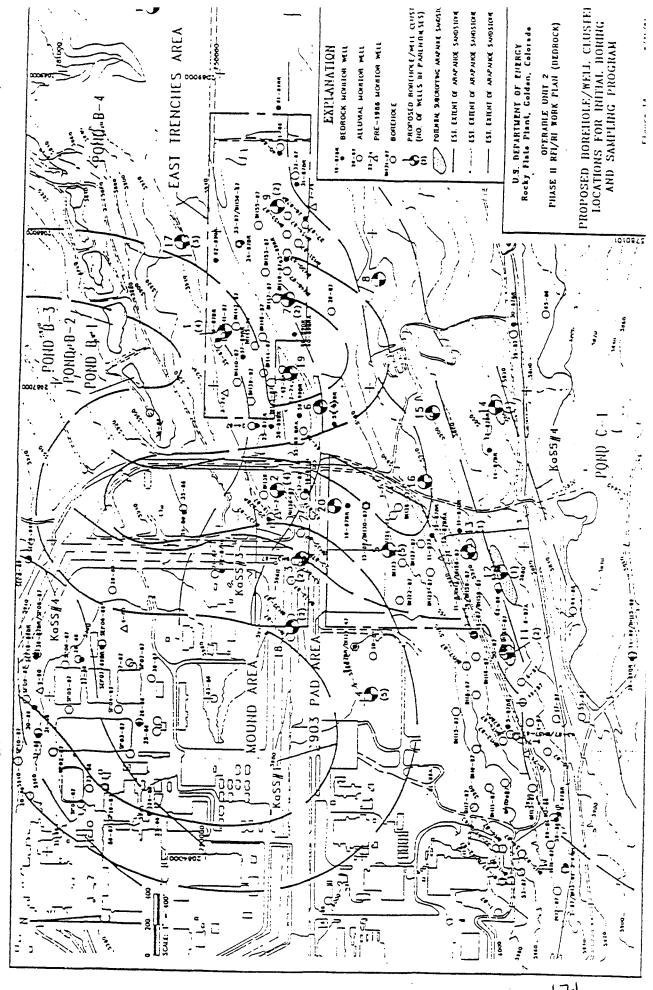




Preliminary information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shows no flood plain for the drainageways on this map.

APRIL 1

Flgure 13



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